

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please add reference number 307 to Figure 4. The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 4. The attached "Replacement Sheet 4 of 5," which includes Figure 4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 4.

REMARKS

Claims 1-69 are pending in the present application. Claims 30-35 and 41 stand rejected and Claims 36-39 are objected to. Claims 1-29 and 49-69 have been withdrawn. Claims 42-48 have been allowed. Claims 2, 3, 12, 15, 16, 30, 36, 39, 49 and 50-52 have been amended herein. Claims 1, 11, 14, 18-29 and 53-69 have been cancelled herein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and following remarks. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and to render all claims at issue patentably distinct over the references cited.

The Examiner has maintained the restriction requirement. The withdrawn independent claims have been cancelled or placed in dependent form herein, and reconsideration is requested with regard to the non-cancelled dependent claims.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, a replacement sheet for Figure 4 is being filed concurrently herewith to show reference number 307. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant objection be withdrawn.

Claims 30-35 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mauer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,276,050) in view of Stevenson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,802,682). This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited references. Notwithstanding, independent Claim 30 has been amended to state that threads on the fastener are accessible even after fastener setting. Support for this amendment can be found in the originally filed specification in Paragraph Nos. [0021], [0022] and [0023],

and in the originally filed Figures 6-10. In contrast, the alleged thread of Stevenson cannot be accessed for removable attachment to other components after the rivet is set into the workpieces. Accordingly, the cited references do not teach, suggest or motivate the presently claimed combination of features in independent Claim 30, nor the claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Clew (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0166221) in view of Stevenson et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The originally filed claim is patentably distinct over the cited references. Notwithstanding, Claim 30 has been amended as previously discussed. In light of the previous arguments, the cited references do not teach, suggest or motivate the presently claimed combination of features. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Finally, the objected to dependent Claims 36 and 39 have been rewritten to essentially include the elements of their base independent claim.

In view of the instant amendments, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Monte L. Falcoff Reg. No. 37,617

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MLF/cmg